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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 7659

BILL NUMBER: HB 1811

NOTE PREPARED: Apr 11, 2007

BILL AMENDED: Apr 5, 2007

SUBJECT: Math, science, and technology standards and programs; teacher licensure.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Pierce

BILL STATUS: As Passed Senate

FIRST SPONSOR: Sen. Ford

FUNDS AFFECTED: X GENERAL
X DEDICATED
X FEDERAL

IMPACT: State

Summary of Legislation: *DOE Grants:* This bill allows the Department of Education to award grants to school corporations for innovative, project based math, science, and technology learning activities.

Guidelines: The bill requires the state to contract periodically with a nationally or an internationally recognized organization to assist in developing guidelines for teacher preparation programs in math, science, and technology.

Licensure of Persons with Postgraduate Degrees- The bill requires the Department of Education to grant an initial standard teacher's license for a specific subject area in middle school or high school to an applicant who has earned a postgraduate degree in the subject area, has experience teaching students, and complies with certain requirements for licensure.

Summer School: The bill provides that a school corporation may offer a summer school program focusing on math, science, technology, engineering and bioscience skills.

Bioscience: The bill provides that a school corporation may enter into an agreement with an institution of higher education to offer a bioscience program.

Effective Date: July 1, 2007.

Explanation of State Expenditures: *DOE Grants:* The impact would depend on the amounts appropriated to fund grants promoting innovative, project based math, science, and technology learning activities. This bill does not make an appropriation.

Guidelines: The contract to have a nationally or an internationally recognized organization assist in developing guidelines for teacher preparation programs in math, science, and technology would be done with the exist resources of the Department of Education and Higher Education Commission. (On June 30, 2006 the Department of Education reverted about \$3.3 M.)

Licensure of Persons with Postgraduate Degrees- The Department of Education could see an increase in persons applying for an initial standard license as a result of the bill. However, applicants that meet the criteria of the bill would be required to comply with certain licensing requirements for an initial standard license. The requirements would include an oath or affirmation to support the Constitution of the United Sates, submission of a limited history check, and passage of the PRAXIS series examination. It would also require a person to have at least five academic years of teaching experience, which may include teaching experience in a college classroom. The bill could require the need for additional administrative time for the Department to process license applications. The Department's Division of Professional Standards reverted \$190,022 at the close of FY 2006.

Background: Transition to Teaching- Under current law and administrative rule, persons with a baccalaureate degree, with certain GPA or professional restrictions, may enter into the Transition to Teaching program offered at any university within the state that offers an education undergraduate program. Typically, a person in the program must complete 18 or 24 credit hours of class work before applying for a teaching license. The bill would allow a person with a masters or doctorate degree and classroom teaching experience to bypass the credit hour requirement and upon successful completion of the PRAXIS examination apply for a license.

As of October 2006, the Department had granted teacher licenses to 1,344 individuals through the Transition to Teaching program, since the program's inception.

Summer School: The provision that allows a school corporation to offer a summer school program focusing on math, science, technology, engineering and bioscience skills would depend in the amount funding appropriated by the legislature.

Bioscience: The provision that allows a school corporation to enter into an agreement with an institution of higher education to offer a bioscience program would depend in the amount funding appropriated by the legislature.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: *See Explanation of State Expenditures.*

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Department of Education, Higher Education Commission.

Local Agencies Affected: Local Schools.

Information Sources:

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